

January 18, 1971

Mrs. Jean M. Flanigan
National Education Association
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Flanigan:

I am seeking information on the Mississippi public school system, and I thought that you might be able to provide me with some of the information I seek or tell me where I might go for the material I am requesting.

In addition to teaching here at the University of Mississippi I am a member of the LQC Lamar Society, a non-partisan group that is attempting to help find positive solutions to Southern problems. The Mississippi chapter of the regional organization has created several task forces to investigate and report on matters of important concern to Mississippians. I have been assigned to a group investigating the state of our public schools after a semester or two of desegregation.

The task force seeks any information that would shed light on what is going on in our schools. We especially seek information on:

1. The number of blacks and whites attending school together;
2. The number of formerly all-black and all-white schools that are now operated on a desegregated basis; the number of all-black schools that have been closed as a result of desegregation;
3. How many all-black and all-white enrollments are to be found and the location of these patterns;
4. Desegregation of extra-curricular activities including athletic programs, cheerleaders, band programs, and other activities;
5. Racial composition of administrative officials and coaching staffs, school and class officers;
6. Desegregated schools that have changed their school names, colors, and mascots;
7. The state of PTA organizations;

We would like to know about successful projects that were initiated to accomplish a smooth transition in this new phase of public education in our state.

I am sure that you will not be able to provide me with answers to all the questions I have raised, but I will be grateful for answers to any of them and suggestions where I might go to find help in this project. The task force has been asked to report its findings by the middle of February, so I would appreciate a response as soon as it would be convenient for you.

Sincerely,

John Crews